



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL HELD ON
29th September 2021
Via Zoom**

1. ATTENDEES

Sheila Caffrey (President - NEU), Simon Crew (Secretary – UNITE) and others

2. APOLOGIES:

Accepted

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Agreed as correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING: None

5. SPEAKERS Gareth Lowe (Regional Environment Lead UNITE), Stuart Melvin (Peace & Justice Project and Bristol COP26 Coalition) and Loz Hennessy (Climate Officer Bristol NEU) all gave presentations. Members discussed the importance of the event and the need to turn out as many trade unionists as possible on November 6th. Unions will meet by Queen Victoria’s statue to be a “block”, Members thanked Gareth, Stuart and Loz for their excellent and informative presentations.

6. REPORTS

Unemployed Workers Centre – Roger reported they are speakers next month, demo on October 30th.

EC – Met and proposed we mark 150th Anniversary 2023, Alex looking to update 100th Anniversary leaflet. We should look at a range of events.

SWTUC – Simon reported on the executive, Dan Norris is speaking to next Regional Council.

7. MOTION

Received from UNITE Community Branch

Mike moved the motion on the agenda, in discussion it was raised that we didn’t have information about Youth Fight Against Jobs who hadn’t contacted us. Mike accepted this as an amendment the amended motion below was carried with 2 abstentions.

This Trades Council notes:

- A YouGov poll from April 2021 shows that 32% of British businesses expect to make redundancies this year. Among large businesses the figure is 50%, with one in six such firms expecting to make at least 20% of workers redundant.
- The government plan to end their job retention scheme (furlough) on September 31st.
- The government plan to end the £20/week uplift to Universal Credit on 6th October, making millions of claimants significantly worse off. This uplift was never applied to legacy benefits.

This Trades Council believes:

- That unemployment will become an even more bigger issue facing the working class in the near future.
- That this will affect not just those put out of work but will also be used by employers to try and attacks pay and conditions of workers.
- That the labour movement must actively combat the problem of unemployment and fight for good jobs for all those who are able to work.

This Trades Council further notes:

- That the Bristol Unemployed Workers' Movement (BUWM) have called for a march for jobs on 30th October starting at 12noon on College Green.

This Trades Council resolves:

- To affiliate to BUWM if it has not already done so, with a donation to be agreed by the branch.
- To support the BUWM demonstration on 30th October, to mobilise for it and to contact the organisers requesting that the branch be able to send a speaker.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Wuhan by John Fletcher book launch, author interviewed by Dave Chapple

SWTUC Campaign to win a proper pay rise for key workers.

NSSN updates

NPC updates

WEA/GFTU Working Class history sessions.

Harrow Trades Council 85th Anniversary of Cable Street event 4th October

Chair of the Board of Trustees Bristol University re Vice-Chancellor

SWTUC news

NEU SW Press release – Back to School

Bristol Cop26 Coalition invites

Bristol Radical History Group reprinting of the 1870 pamphlet "The Cry of the Poor", Ian proposed and Simon seconded that we sponsor this and donate £50, unanimously carried.

9. AOB

Simon (NUJ) raised the clean air zone discussion from the last meeting, it had gone to branches in the minutes, we will write to branches asking for any concerns.